

## News Release

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### Wisconsin No. 1 in national graduation rate report

*Over five consecutive years, state ranks first or second in public high school graduation rate*

MADISON — Wisconsin leads the nation with a 90.7 percent graduation rate according to the recently released report, “Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2008–09,” from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

“This is the second year in a row that Wisconsin has led the nation in public high school graduation rates, and our rate is up more than one percentage point from the previous year,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers.

“In fact, according to the NCES, over the past five years of this report, Wisconsin has been first or second in graduation rate, growing by four percentage points. We should be proud of that accomplishment, and remain focused on reaching our goal of having every child graduate prepared for success.”

The report compares graduation rates across states, using the Public High School Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR) pulled from the Common Core of Data at the U.S. Department of Education. (This calculation differs from what the Department of Public Instruction used for its recent [graduation report](#).) While the overall U.S. graduation rate has been relatively stable, Wisconsin’s rate has steadily grown. The report also shows that

#### Public High School Graduation Rate

	US	WI	Rank
2008-09	75.5	90.7	1
2007-08	74.7	89.6	1
2006-07	73.9	88.5	2
2005-06	73.2	87.5	1
2004-05	74.7	86.7	2

Wisconsin’s high school dropout rate is 2.3 percent, which is tied for the 10th lowest in the nation.

“Graduating from high school is essential, and we must continue finding ways to keep our students engaged and actively pursuing their high school diploma,” said Evers. “While we can be proud of our No. 1 ranking, we know that even one high school drop-out is too many. We can do better, especially for our economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and students with disabilities. We are implementing the newly adopted Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English language arts and seeking more dual credit options for students to earn college credit while in high school. At the same time, we must not turn our backs on what appears to be working for the vast majority of students in Wisconsin.”

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011\\_50.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_50.pdf). The complete report from the National Center for Education Statistics can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011312.pdf>.